

## FAMILY.—ECHENEIDIDÆ.

## ECHENEIS REMORA. Linn.

Mr. Darwin took a small specimen of this fish from off a shark in the Atlantic Ocean, near St. Paul's Rocks. It is not four inches long. It has eighteen pairs of laminæ on the head; and a rough disk on the middle of the tongue:\* caudal lunate.

## FAMILY.—ANGUILLIDÆ.

## ANGUILLA AUSTRALIS. Richards.

*Anguilla australis*, Richardson, Proceed. of Zool. Soc. 1841, p. 22.

FORM.—Very similar to the *A. latirostris*, Yarr., but the upper jaw rather shorter and broader, making the gape, which reaches to a vertical line from the posterior part of the orbit, wider. Teeth rather stronger. Dorsal commencing considerably beyond the first third, and not much in advance of the middle point, of the entire length; much less elevated than in the *A. latirostris*, its height scarcely exceeding one-fifth of the depth, which last is about one-seventeenth of the entire length. Vent a little posterior to the commencement of the dorsal.

The distance from the end of the snout to the insertion of the pectorals is rather less than one-eighth of the entire length: the form of the pectorals is lanceolate. The tail is rounded, much as in the *A. latirostris*.

|   | in. | lin. |
|---|-----|------|
| Length (entire) . . . . .                             | 17  | 3    |
| From end of snout to commencement of dorsal . . . . . | 7   | 6    |
| From the same to insertion of pectoral . . . . .      | 2   | 2    |
| From the same to vent . . . . .                       | 7   | 9    |

COLOUR—(*In spirits*.) Appears similar to that of the common eel.

Habitat, New Zealand.

The above eel was procured by Mr. Darwin in fresh water in the month of December, in the Bay of Islands, New Zealand. It so nearly accords with the *A. australis* of Dr. Richardson from Van Dieman's Land, that I can hardly suppose it to be a distinct species. The vent, however, would seem to be a trifle backward, and the body deeper in proportion to its length. Without seeing more specimens, it is impossible to say what importance is to be attached to these points of discrepancy.

\* I notice this circumstance, because Mr. Lowe, in the "Proceedings of the Zoological Society," (1839, p. 89.) has briefly described two species of this fish, which he calls *E. Remora* and *E. pallida* respectively, the former having the tongue smooth, and the latter rough in the middle, besides other differences.

The above specimen obtained by Mr. Darwin, as well as two others in the Museum of the Cambridge Philosophical Society, have the tongue rough; though in their other characters, especially colour, they would seem to be Mr. Lowe's *Remora*. Cuvier, in his "Regne Animal," appears to consider the rough tongue as characteristic of the whole genus.

## CONGER PUNCTUS. Jen.

*C. lateribus fasciis transversis fuscescenti-rubris, interstitiis angustis griseis: rostro brevi, obtuso; maxillis subæqualibus: pinnâ dorsali initium supra pectoralem capienti: cute corporis puncturis parvis creberrimè aggregatis impressâ.*

FORM.—Body much compressed, except at the anterior extremity. Depth less than one-eleventh of the entire length. Head contained about seven and a half times in the same. Snout short and rounded. Jaws nearly equal, the upper scarcely longer than the lower. Gape scarcely reaching beyond a vertical from the anterior part of the eye. Teeth velutine. A row of very conspicuous pores round the edges of both jaws. The whole body, but not the head, thickly studded all over with small pores, much crowded, and appearing like pin-holes.

The pectorals are rather more than half the length of the head. The dorsal commences immediately above them, and has a moderate elevation of about one-third of the depth. The vent is a little posterior to the termination of the first third of the length, and the anal is immediately behind it. The dorsal and anal unite to form a moderately pointed caudal.

Length 3 inc. 3 lines.

COLOUR—(*In spirits*.) Sides very regularly banded with fourteen or fifteen transverse reddish brown fasciæ: the fasciæ extend on to the dorsal fin, and are much broader than the intervening spaces. All the under part of the head, belly as far as the vent, an irregular patch on the cheeks, and the spaces between the bands on the sides, yellowish.

Habitat, Tierra del Fuego.

This appears to be a new species. The individual described above is quite small, and stated in Mr. Darwin's notes to be the young of another and larger specimen which he also captured, but of which he does not mention the exact size, and which unfortunately does not appear in his collection. He has, however, mentioned the colours, which appear similar to those given above, and are as follows:—"Sides with transverse bars of chocolate and brownish-red, separated by narrow grey spaces." Whether the form and proportions of the adult agree exactly with those of the young as above detailed must be left for future observers to determine. The colours, however, appear well to characterize the species, aided by the minute punctures with which the whole body is covered.

This species was taken by Mr. Darwin at the roots of fucus, at the east entrance of Beagle Channel, Tierra del Fuego. The larger specimen is said to have been very active.

## 1. MURENA LENTIGINOSA. Jen.

*M. purpurascens-fusca; maculis circularibus, parvis, flavis: capite et rostro valde compressis; fronte declivi: maxillis subelongatis, angustis, æqualibus, acutis; dentibus acutis, in maxillâ superiore anticis uni-lateralibus bi-seriatis; in inferiore*